

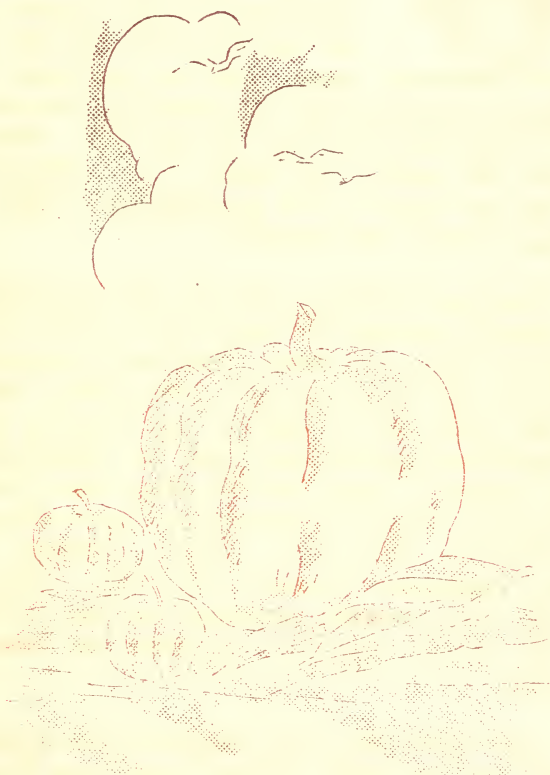
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THE STAR OF THE WASHOON

November

V. 2 NO. 2



REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



There seems to be some confusion among farmers in the Piedmont region as to the procedure and extent of the ECW-soil erosion control program in this state. Everywhere land owners are showing an interest in the conservation movement, evidenced by the great number of letters received at the ECW camps and the personal visits of farmers asking such questions as these: How can I secure the service of the ECW? What good can the CCC boys do my farm? Do I obligate myself and my land to the government? Will the program cost me any money?

Erosion control work is not restricted to the counties where ECW camps are located. As a matter of fact, the whole Piedmont region is included in the area served by the ECW. But before the ECW can do work in any county, a County Conservation Association must be organized. In seven counties where no ECW camps are located County Conservation Association have already been formed. They are: Orange, Person, Stokes, Yadkin, Lincoln, Cabarrus and Polk. These counties are just as much entitled to the services of the ECW as the counties in which the camps are located.

Now what must the farmer do to secure the services of the ECW? First, join the County Con-

servation Association and inform the county agent or camp technician that he is desirous of erosion control work. The farmer must be willing to accept a complete erosion control and land-use program for his entire farm. Such a program would probably include crop rotations, contour tillage, terraces if necessary (to be built either by the farmer or by the county association), strip cropping, retirement of sub-marginal or non-productive land from cultivation, gully control work or, perhaps, forestry or wildlife improvement work. The farm program depends entirely on the farm. It must meet the individual farm needs.

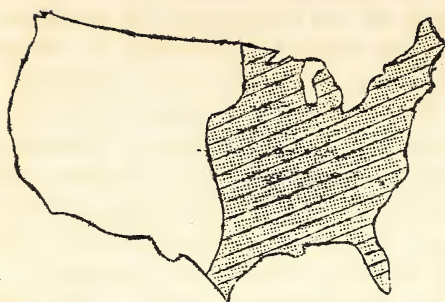
After the farmer has extended an invitation to the ECW to work on his farm, the farm boundaries are then surveyed. Soils experts then map the soils of the entire farm, showing the soil type, degree of erosion, the slope and the culture of the land. This does not obligate the farmer in any way.

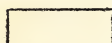
When the soils have been mapped, the camp technician visits the farmer and goes over his farm with him. The two working together work out a program of land conservation which meets the needs of that particular farm. If the farmer is satisfied with the cropping plan, he then signs a five year agreement to carry out the program. He must use the materials furnished by the Government as specified. The plan is not hard and fast procedure, and changes can be made to meet changing conditions.

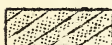
If the farmer accepts the plan for controlling erosion on his farm and building up the productivity of his soil, the CCC boys are then put to work on his farm.

--J. H. Stallings

LIME IN AGRICULTURE



 Lime not needed

 Lime needed

From the technical viewpoint of Dr. Stallings and W. W. Stevens lime should be of interest to every thinking citizen of North Carolina. It is necessary to use lime on certain soils if crops such as alfalfa, redtop, clover and other legumes are to be grown. Not only

does lime increase the crop yield, but it also increases the food and feed value of most crops.

Much of the lime now being used contains both calcium and magnesium, two elements that are essential plant nutrients. In addition to supplying food for plants, liming affects soil structure, serves as a beneficial food for bacteria, and corrects some of the evil effects caused by continued use of certain fertilizer materials.

Lime added to the soil will increase granulation; this increased granulation will increase pore space; and any increase in pore space will also increase the water-holding capacity. Therefore, by increasing the amount of water held in the soil the amount left to run off will decrease. If the run-off is decreased there will be a corresponding decrease in the amount of erosion.

"By increasing granulation in a soil aeration is improved," says Mr. Stevens, "the soil is more receptive for moisture.

The yield of a crop is based upon a well developed root system. Lime will increase the ease of root penetration, and a well developed root system will result. This increase in root spread will supply more food to the plant.

"When the plant has matured, a larger root system will be left in the soil to supply organic matter. A well developed root system is one of the best agencies in controlling erosion because it tends to hold the soil together. The use of lime as it effects plant growth and root development may cause a marked decrease in erosion.

"Bacterial growth is increased by the addition of lime. Nodules that are found on the roots of legume crops are due to the work of bacteria. The work that such bacteria can do is greatly increased by the addition of lime; without lime most of our soils are "sour" and are inducive to the growth of fungi. Fungi are usually of little or no value; while many bacterial types are very desirable. If fungi are allowed to grow there will be a decrease in the bacteria present, but if conditions are made favorable for bacteria the fungi will decrease. Lime added to the soil will correct this condition."

When the state of North Carolina supplies it needed lack of lime and our people learn the culture of clovers, beans, peas, lespedeza, varieties of legumes and more livestock is developed -- with our rainfall -- we will become the richest state in the world.

WINTER COVER CROPS

The time to think about winter cover crops is here.



It should be the aim of every farmer to give the soil fair treatment. When a good crop is grown, we know that the soil has given up a large quantity of plant food for producing that crop. The thoughtful farmer will consider what crop should be grown on that field the following year to replace the plant food removed in the production of the present crop.

A fertile soil must contain a considerable amount of humus, which is chiefly decayed vegetation. The secret of successful farming lies in adopting a cropping plan that includes a rotation calling for the use of legumes, and particularly winter cover crops.

The mild winters in North Carolina permit a wide variety from which to choose a winter cover crop. Rye, barley, oats and wheat may be used as a winter cover crop, chiefly to improve the physical condition or texture of the soil. Winter legume crops, such as vetch, crimson clover, bur clover or Austrian winter peas may be used in combination with any of the small grains for actual enrichment of the soil. Vetch and Austrian winter peas can be seeded along with small grain in the fall through September and October, while the general practice for seeding crimson clover in row crops is at the time of the last cultivation.

Mr. J. A. Durham of Kernersville found in July that he had a small quantity of Korean lespedeza seed left from seeding the previous spring. He decided to experiment by sowing the lespedeza seed on a small plot of the poorest soil in the farm. After cultivation on July 25th the seed were broadcast over the plot.

The killing frost of October 7th stopped the lespedeza growth. But by this time the lespedeza had obtained a growth of nine inches above ground and appeared to have matured enough seed to insure a stand next year. The rate of seeding was approximately 40 lbs. per acre.

We see then that lespedeza seeding in row crops in early July will, during the normal seedings, produce a cover crop and seed sufficient to insure a stand the following year. At any rate some similar experiments should be tried in this section where erosion is great and the soil badly in need of humus.

According to authorities of the Soil Conservation Service, no other class of crops renews humus as effectively as the legumes. Legumes are valuable cash crops when grown for seed, and when used for hays and pasture legumes are superior to non-legumes. Any crop which follows a legume yields more because of the supply of rich humus left in the soil. With adequate humus renewed by the use of cover crops both legume and non-legume, commercial fertilizer may be safely used in larger amounts and with greater assurance of profitable returns; therefore, there is no conflict between fertilizer producers and those who promote humus renewal.

ATTENTION, OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN

The wildlife department of the Soil Conservation Service reminds the hunters of North Carolina that the game supply is rapidly diminishing. A plea is made of outdoor sportsmen to bear this fact in mind during the current hunting season.

"It is very desirable that the farmers and land owners take an active interest in the regulation of hunting on their property, especially during the next few years," states R. O. Stevens, in charge of wildlife conservation for the Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina, "so that the supply of game already present can increase sufficiently to make full use of the improved food and cover conditions, which have resulted from the erosion control work of the Soil Conservation Service."

In controlling gullies, terrace outlets and other badly eroded areas and in developing small odd corners about the farms, the Soil Conservation Service is making it possible for a much larger number of birds to successfully come through the winter period. Lespedezas and other food plants and shrubs, which are being used extensively to control erosion throughout the Piedmont region, will greatly increase the winter carrying capacity of the land.

The question is: Will there be a sufficient supply of birds left when the hunting season is over to make the best use of these improved environments. If a large number of birds are left after the gun has taken its toll, then a satisfactory increase might reasonably be expected during the coming years. However, increasing food and cover

is only a part of the picture.

Whether or not there will be an increase of game animals is a matter which, in the final analysis, rests with the land owners and upon the whole-hearted cooperation of the sportsmen. Hunting should be regulated so that a sufficient breeding stock will be maintained for restocking the farm lands to capacity each year.

This means that during the next few years particular care should be taken to regulate the hunting on each individual farm and that more birds remain in the covies. When the supply of game has had a chance to build up much more hunting can be done than at present, and still leaving the all important breeding stock to replenish the land each succeeding year.

In many places throughout the South and Southeast it is the policy of sportsmen never to reduce the covies below eight birds, and as a rule more than this number are left. Where such a policy is practiced there is continuous good hunting year after year.

It is hoped the increased interest in wildlife conservation will convince hunters that it is best to stick to the laws of good sportsmanship.

TREE PLANTING ON THE REEDY FORK AREA

Just recently the forestry department has requested almost two million tree and shrub seedlings to be used for erosion control in the Reedy Fork area during the coming two years. This is part of the six hundred million seedlings to be grown by Soil Conservation nurseries throughout the United States.

Two hundred and seven thousand seedlings, enough to plant one hundred and fifty acres, have been ordered for planting this fall. The majority of this number is made up of loblolly, white and short leaf pine, tulip poplar, catalpa, and some locust. Very little tree planting will be done in gullies and severely sheet eroded areas this fall because of the danger of frost heaving.

Plans have already been started for tree planting during the coming fall planting season. Each field set aside to be planted to trees is visited and a detailed plan drawn up with the land owner. This plan includes a detailed map of the area, the number and kinds of trees that will be planted, necessary ground preparation, and any other information pertaining to the planting operation.

The choice of what kind of tree to plant is based primarily on the degree of erosion, soil quality, and available ground water; the cooperator's timber seeds and wishes are however an important consideration.

Cooperators are urged to go over their fields to be planted to trees with the representative of the forestry department and to cooperate with him in every possible way.

VOX POPULI

For generations we have recklessly wasted the natural resources of this state. Our Mecklenburg farmers have seen their topsoil wash into Catawba river with every downpour, and today that stream, which once ran clear as a crystal, is as muddy as the Yellow River of China. Millions of yards of silt, representing a tremendous financial loss to the farmer, have clogged the stream channel, damaging water power developments, increasing flood hazards and marring the beauty of the stream and the sloping landscapes.

In this state the conservation program is doing a great work in controlling erosion, in improving our forest lands and in putting into effect a wildlife program of which our people can justly be proud. It is our duty as farmers, business and professional men to cooperate with this project which will insure us a restoration of the wealth and natural beauty which once belonged to this state.

--Clarence O. Kuester, Secretary
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

oooOooo

It would be thought a hard Government that should tax its people on-tenth of all their time to be employed in its service. But idleness taxes many of us much more; sloth by bringing on diseases absolutely shortens life. Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labor wears; while the used key is always bright. Do you love life? Then do not squander it, for that is the stuff life is made of. How much more than is necessary do we spend in sleep, forgetting that the sleeping fox catches no poultry, and there will be sleeping enough on the grave?

--Benjamin Franklin



EDITORIALS

THE TARHEEL WASHOFF

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Deep River and Reedy Fork Areas
Federal Building - High Point, N.C.

Regional Director - Dr. J. H. Stallings

Vol. II

November 1935

No. 2

FARM MANAGEMENT

How many farmers know the cost of producing a bushel of wheat, pound of tobacco, or hill of beans, or are familiar with prices of commodities they produce, or make a study of marketing conditions, or know - year after year - whether they are progressing or going backwards? In other words, how many farmers know farm management.

During the last few decades there

has been a great exodus from farm to city. The broad open spaces have been left for the crowded centers. The history of industry, education and religion afford abundant evidence of the farm's contribution to leadership in these fields. Imagination inspires the question: "What would have happened to agriculture if this native genius had been harnessed for agricultural enterprise?"

Many reasons may be given for this movement from farm to city. Primarily, the drabness and unprogressiveness of existence through haphazard, monotonous methods of farming, the farm was not looked upon as a business unit. Secondly, the ever increasing consciousness of the younger generation to such conditions leading to outreach for environments that offered more opportunity for expansion and progress. Thirdly, the knowledge disseminated by the press of the rapid stride of things in the larger centers, made life in the city to appear far more attractive than that in rural districts. However, most important of all reasons, is the growing unrest among the younger generation with living "on the margin" - never the poverty line - the lure of parative luxury in the industrial centers. Thus youth deserted the farm.

The solution to this problem can be found, in part at least, in farm management. Every farm must be considered a business unit. The farmer must know the soil which produces his crops. He must know the crops which are best suited to his soils. He must know the cost of production, and he should keep a record of his financial standing at all times. HE MUST KNOW HOW TO MANAGE HIS FARM.

CCC EXTINGUISH FIRE



A forest fire, burning over four acres of the Soil Conservation Service nursery plot located four miles north of Greensboro on the Winston-Salem highway, was extinguished in three hours time by a troop of 23 CCC enrollees of camp 406, it was

reported by J. Norman Dixon, superintendent of the camp.

The fire burned over a plot of timber which had received timberstand improvement work by the CCC, where several cords of wood had been left on the ground. The fire had spread from the roadside, where state convicts had been burning off shoulders and road banks. Several cords of wood were burned before the CCC boys arrived.

The nursery plot, comprising 28 acres on the Morris farm in the Friendship Township is under the supervision of the Forestry Department of the Soil Conservation Service, working in cooperation with the Civilian Conservation Corp of the ECW. This is the first instance of a major forest fire in the erosion control areas, and it served as a real test of the usefulness and rapidity of the CCC in putting out forest fire.

--High Point Enterprise

ooOoo

Be sure to tune in on the Soil Conservation Service program each Thursday morning at 11 o' clock, radio station WSOC, Charlotte, N. C.

PROTECTION OF SEEDLINGS



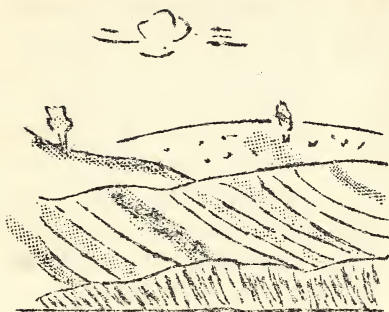
That a large part of the two million seedlings and shrubs planted up to April this year in the High Point, Greensboro, and Wadesboro areas, is in danger of serious damage or destruction by fire, is stressed by the Forestry Department. The fall fire season has already appeared in North Carolina

with killing frosts and low rainfall, and will continue through the fall and winter months.

The fact that the public is travelling more and more all the time increases the fire risk, since more people are getting into the woodlands of the State for recreation. Fire is the most devastating of all agencies and one which is in greatest conflict with the forestry program.

Particular caution is advised in high winds by such people as railroad section gangs, farmers, and others working outdoors; also against discarding any live smoking material, such as cigarettes, cigar butts, matches, etc., by the public along highways and in woodlands. With the opening of the hunting season, fire risks increase tremendously, and hunters are cautioned as to the care of fire while in field and forest.

A TIP ON TERRACING



In carrying out the program to control erosion in the demonstrational areas in North Carolina, thousands of acres of farm land have been terraced during the past year by the Soil Conservation Service.

This is the season when farmers with terraced land should give serious thought to the maintenance of their terraces. They are now able to measure the advantages derived from the terracing work done as well as judge the prospects of future production as compared with that of years prior to the inception of the SCS program within the project region.

"Farmers are well aware," says J. A. Muncey, "that under the most ideal conditions the growing of a row crop is always accompanied by the loss of valuable top-soil, to the preservation of which all conservation efforts are directed."

There are ways and means of reducing this loss to a minimum, and a few fundamental suggestions are offered, the utilization of which will prove of great benefit to cooperating farmers. Among the suggestions made by Mr. Muncey are the following:

1. The most important step in conserv-

ing the soil on a terraced field is to follow a good crop rotation in which the row crop is followed by two or more years of good cover crops. These prevent soil loss to a large extent, provided hay for the farm or for sale, and add plant food to the soil.

2. Another all-important step is the method used in laying out the rows. Running rows up and down the slope results in impoverished farm land, and through it far more soil is lost than by running a row round the slope. The method of laying out rows so as to have them all running around the slope parallel to the terraces is recommended.

3. The easiest way to do this is to start the first row on the terrace ridge. Other rows are then run parallel to this first row on down the slope, allowing the short rows to discharge into the channel of the terrace below. By the use of this system each row acts as a small terrace itself, holding back the water, allowing it to be absorbed for use by the crops, and preventing the washing down the slope to form gullies and fill the terrace channels.

4. Care must be taken to prevent the open furrow between the terraces from being at the same location each year to prevent a low place from forming. Always keep a broad well defined channel open just above the terrace ridge, maintaining a ridge of sufficient height to be safe against breakage.

A BIT O'WIT



Sing a song of seasons
Something bright in all;
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall.

--Southern Agriculturist

Science Teacher: Jack Wise, what can you tell me about nitrates?

Jack: "Well-er-um-oh, yes! They're a lot cheaper than day rates."

Joe: What caused the explosion on Cy's farm the other day?"

Henry: "He fed a chicken some 'Lay 'em or Bust' feed' and it turned out to be a rooster."

--^{*}Carolina Cooperator

Regretful Retrospect

Eve, (outside of Eden) - Adam, what fools we were just to have got only one apple off that tree.

Adam (looking backward) - Yes, Eve, we should have stripped the blooming tree when we were the other side that gate.

--Forestry Department

Setting the tap-root deep and making the spreading roots firm--this is the way to insure long life to the tree.

--Lao Tze

AS YOU LIKE IT

Rastus was a great believer in prayer. He had prayed earnestly just before Thanksgiving for God to send him a turkey. The night before Thanksgiving but no turkey. So Rastus prayed again as follows: "Dear God, that musta bin a wild turkey I prayed fer and yer ain't ketched him; won't yer now please send me out after a chicken." Rastus got his Thanksgiving chicken

The cod fish lays a million eggs,
The little hen but one --
But the cod fish never cackles
When the noble deed is done,
And so we praise the artful hen,
The cod fish we despise --
Which clearly proves to thinking men
It pays to advertise!

--Carolina Cooperator

A London east-end school was given an essay to write, and the title was "The Advantages of Mother's Milk over Cow's Milk." One youngster thought hard and handed the following in to the teacher: "There are three advantages: First, it is cheaper; second, it keeps better over the week-end; third, the cat can't get at it."

Reciprocity

Jones - What are those cries of agony I hear in the dentist's office?

Smith - Last week a corn doctor worked on the dentist's feet, agreeing to take the bill out in trade. And now the dentist is taking it out.

Now that liquid meat has been made successfully in Australia, you may soon invite your friend to drink with you a rare steak.

LOOKING OUT FOR THE BIRDS



A little booklet that should hold an attraction for many persons of this area, has just been issued by the wildlife department of the Soil Conservation Service, High Point, in cooperation with the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development.

It is entitled "Helping Our Bird Friends" and was made possible by contributions from various groups and individuals, we are informed. The booklet contains twenty-five colored illustrations in addition to several plain pictures of birds.

The booklet is being distributed to farmers and school children in the soil erosion areas of this section, and it is the intention that every pupil will be given the opportunity to secure a copy.

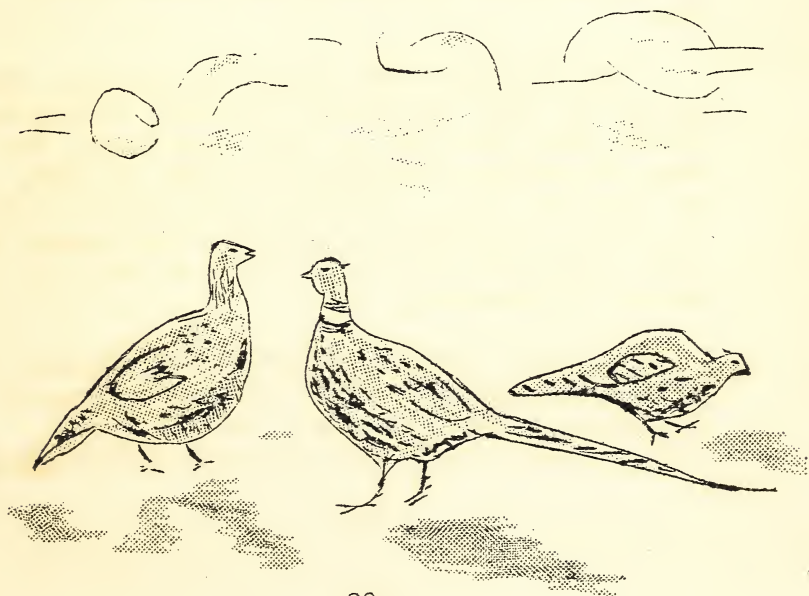
The Record congratulates those who have been responsible for the preparation and publication of the booklet. It is not difficult to comprehend why most farmers appreciate the feathered friends of mankind--because every rural dweller who has observed closely realizes that birds destroy millions of insects that are harmful to growing crops. The farmer usually enjoys a much more profound appreciation of nature, too, than the average city dweller--which accounts, perhaps, for the fact that he prefers to live in the country.

We should all welcome every movement which tends to stimulate in the breasts of our children the proper respect for wild animal life. Boys and girls today, especially if they are reared in urban centers, may be

denied the opportunity to become acquainted with friends of the animal world, unless a definite and sympathetic effort is made to create and sustain such an interest through the right sort of informative literature.

With a little intelligent effort on the part of people generally, it would be possible for us to multiply rapidly the number of birds in the city as well as in the country--which would result in definite benefits to this and coming generations. Without some such organized program, many of the more desirable species of birds will become extinct.

A person can find few more constructive hobbies than that of providing for the encouragement of bird life around his or her home. It is doubtful if one can become interested in any pastime which will give greater individual pleasure for the effort.



AGRICULTURE LOOKS BOTH WAYS

Henry A. Wallace

- An Excerpt -

It is most important for us to give the present young generation of farmers a basis for sounder judgment, and perhaps prevent or control those rather natural forces of human greed which lead us so seriously astray. What form should this safeguard take? Should it be a direct limitation on the advance in land values, or some kind of indirect control? Possibly farm people should think about the desirability of an indirect measure such as a special amendment to the income tax laws in order to put into the Federal Treasury virtually all profits from land bought between 1930 and 1936, say, and sold between 1936 and 1945.....Certainly it is high time farmers were beginning to guard themselves against the delusions which so rapidly come when farm land starts booming.

The farmers of the United States have displayed the most remarkable fortitude during the cloudy days from 1920 to 1930, and during the days of terrible disaster from 1930 to 1933. But now they have a greater trial before them, the trial of handling a moderate improvement in such a way that it doesn't later on lead to another destruction.

They will have to resist the temptation to insist on prices out of line with consumer purchasing power. They will have to turn their attention more and more--as in fact they

already have--to an increasing, balanced production of both farm products and industrial products, all at prices low enough for consumers to buy and high enough to keep producers producing, and with due regard for the conservation of our natural resources.

This means that industry, as well as agriculture, must put its house in order. It calls for a willingness on the part of industrial leaders to discard their industrial reduction program of the past few years, to plan to put to full use the technological improvements that I know industrial scientists have up their sleeves, and to launch a deliberate program of greater production, of full employment, and of a balanced rather than a disorganized rate of expansion between major industries. Any move industry can make toward this end will have the active encouragement of agriculture, for if industry fails to move in this direction, agriculture knows only too well the cost to itself and to the nation as a whole.

In conclusion, I wish to express the belief that both agriculture and industry, during the next ten years, have in them the possibilities for bringing about extraordinary technical changes which will make possible greatly increased production from an hour of human labor. If our social understanding and knowledge of the improved methods of distributing income keep pace with our technical and scientific understanding, we may anticipate a situation by 1945 which would gladden all our hearts. But if we are to attain these joyous possibilities, it will be essential to avoid the excesses of speculation, war, and greed.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service
High Point, N.C.

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